



Borough of Scarborough

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# ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

Health, Sanitary Conditions, &c., of  
the Borough of Scarborough  
for the year 1943

BY

STANLEY FOX LINTON,

T.D., M.Sc., M.D., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.      School Medical Officer.  
Medical Superintendent of the Corporation Sanatorium.

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SCARBOROUGH:

E. T. W. DENNIS & SONS, LD., Printing House Square, Scarborough.



HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
TOWN HALL,  
SCARBOROUGH.  
July, 1945

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1943.

As suggested by the Ministry of Health, it does no more than “deal briefly with subjects of current interest.”

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

S. FOX LINTON,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors  
of the Borough of Scarborough.*



STAFF	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME
Medical Officer of Health (who is also School Medical Officer) ... ..	1	-
Assistant Medical Officer of Health (who is also Assistant School Medical Officer) ...	1	-
Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist ...	-	1
Health Visitors ... ..	2	1
Chief Sanitary Inspector ... ..	1	-
Sanitary Inspectors ... ..	2	-
Assistant Sanitary Inspector (unqualified) ...	1	-
Chief Clerk ... ..	1	-
Clerks ... ..	3	1

# BOROUGH OF SCARBOROUGH

## ANNUAL REPORT

### VITAL STATISTICS

#### POPULATION.

Registrar-General's estimate (mid-year) 34,980.

#### BIRTHS.

LIVE BIRTHS.		MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	... ..	250	257	507
Illegitimate	... ..	26	24	50
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		276	281	557
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
STILL-BIRTHS	... ..	13	3	16
BIRTH-RATE	... 15.9			

This is the highest local birth-rate since 1921, when it was 16.0.

#### DEATHS.

	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
	252	328	580
DEATH-RATE	...	16.6	
„ corrected	...	13.4	

#### CAUSES OF DEATH.

These are shown in the following table (Registrar-General's figures).

#### CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1943.

				<i>Registrar General's Figures</i>	
				MALE	FEMALE
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	...	...	...	-	-
Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	...	-	1
Scarlet fever	...	...	...	-	-
Whooping cough	...	...	...	1	-
Diphtheria	...	...	...	-	1
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	...	5	7
Other forms of tuberculosis	...	...	...	4	3
Syphilitic diseases	...	...	...	4	3
Influenza	...	...	...	4	4
Measles	...	...	...	-	-
Acute poliomyelitis and encephalitis	...	...	...	-	-
Acute infantile encephalitis	...	...	...	-	1
Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	...	25	39
Diabetes	...	...	...	-	2
Intracranial vascular lesions	...	...	...	25	50
Heart disease	...	...	...	88	128
Other disease of circulatory system	...	...	...	18	10
Bronchitis	...	...	...	10	12
Pneumonia	...	...	...	15	17
Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	4	6
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	...	...	3	1
Diarrhoea under 2 years	...	...	...	2	1
Appendicitis	...	...	...	1	-
Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	5	9
Nephritis	...	...	...	2	6
Puerperal sepsis	...	...	...	-	-
Other maternal causes	...	...	...	-	1
Premature birth	...	...	...	2	-
Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth	...	...	...	4	3
Suicide	...	...	...	-	3
Road traffic accidents	...	...	...	-	-
Other violent causes	...	...	...	3	3
All other causes	...	...	...	27	17
				<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTALS	...	...	...	252	328
				<hr/>	<hr/>



Comparison of some of these figures with average figures (given in brackets) for the previous 5 years shows :

Tuberculosis (all forms) 19 (20), cancer 64 (81), pneumonia 32 (22), suicide 3 (7), road accidents 0 (5, three years' average).

Mortality from tuberculosis is not rising: it seems, therefore, that the increase in the number of cases notified is due to better ascertainment.

Mortality from cancer is lower than the 5 year average.

Deaths from pneumonia were well above the average ; this is not in line with the general experience that pneumonia mortality has been reduced by adequate sulphonamide treatment.

Suicide has become rarer, as it has throughout the country.

It is good to record no Scarborough deaths from road traffic accidents.

INFANT MORTALITY.

Number of deaths under 1 year	... 18
Rate per 1,000 live births	... 32

This is a remarkably low figure, much the lowest that has ever been recorded for the town, the previous lowest having been 41 in 1934. Only two deaths occurred from premature birth ; consequently there was an unusually small number of deaths during the first 4 weeks of life. This is the age at which Infant Mortality is least amenable to control. The low Infant Mortality in Scarborough in 1943 was a chance occurrence such as is apt to happen whenever rates are based on small numbers.

The following comparative figures are of interest :

DEATHS PER 1,000 LIVE-BIRTHS.

		UNDER 4 WEEKS	4 WEEKS TO 1 YEAR	TOTAL
SCARBOROUGH	... ..	9.0	23.3	32.3
Greater London (1942)	... ..	24.9	21.7	46.6
New York (1942)	... ..	21	7.8	28.8

It will be seen that at ages 4 weeks — 1 year Infant Mortality is nearly three times as high in this country as it is in New York. It is in this age group that there is most room and hope for improvement.

A recent inquiry into Infant Mortality in County Boroughs of England and Wales has shown reason to believe that if all poverty indices were eliminated, an Infant Mortality rate of 23.1 per 1,000 live births would prevail. This is the rate which is, in fact, attained among the "better off" (Registrar-General's Social Class 1). Where on the other hand there is overcrowding, unemployment, low wages, or industrial employment of women, the effect on the Infant Mortality rate is apparent. Among the over-crowded poor the rate is 108. Among the unemployed over-crowded poor 153. The problem is a social as well as a medical one.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

Deaths from puerperal sepsis	... 0
Deaths from other puerperal causes	... 1

Maternal mortality rates based on the number of births occurring in a single year in a small town are of no value — it is better to take a number of years together. During the five years 1938-42, there were in Scarborough 2,558 live and still births and 14 maternal deaths, of which 2 were from sepsis (including 1 case of abortion) and 12 from other puerperal causes. These figures give the following maternal mortality rates :

- Puerperal sepsis — 0.78 per 1,000 live and still births.
- Other puerperal causes — 4.7 per 1,000 live and still births.

The sepsis mortality rate is a good deal lower than the England and Wales rate during the same 5 years, which was at least 1.1 per 1,000 live and still births. Mortality from puerperal sepsis has fallen very greatly in recent years, in consequence, no doubt, of the use of sulphonamides.

Our 1938-42 mortality from other puerperal causes was, on the other hand, 2½ times as high as the England and Wales rate, which was 1.83. To put it in another way, we had 12 deaths instead of the 5 which would have corresponded with the England and Wales rate. Some of these deaths could have been prevented if the individuals concerned had taken care to have proper pre-natal supervision.

## MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

This service was transferred in March from King Street to Crescent House.

### MATERNITY CLINICS.

Throughout the year the weekly ante-natal and post-natal clinics were held by Dr. Cameron.

Miss Ealing, the Borough Consultant in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, held monthly ante-natal and monthly post-natal consultant clinics, and also a monthly gynaecological clinic; patients found to be in need of operative treatment for gynaecological conditions were admitted to a Nursing Home under Miss Ealing's care; they contribute to the cost according to an income scale. During the year 36 patients were admitted to the Stamford Nursing Home for operation. This service was begun in May, 1941, and the growing use of it shows that it meets a need.

### MIDWIVES.

The Corporation subsidises the Scarborough District Nursing Association to provide domiciliary midwifery in the town. During the year the Association midwives attended 183 cases as midwives and 30 as maternity nurses.

The services of Miss Ealing, the Borough Consultant in obstetrics, were available at all times for any doctor in doubt or difficulty with a maternity case.

### MATERNITY BEDS.

The Corporation Maternity Ward in the Scarborough Hospital is a unit of 12 beds under the care of Miss Ealing. It is not large enough to meet the demand, and patients were also sent to the County Maternity Home at the Institution in Dean Road, or to a nursing home.

Numbers of admissions were as follows :

Maternity Ward	...	...	...	204
County Maternity Home	...	...	...	69
Dybdale Nursing Home	...	...	...	23
Stamford House Nursing Home	...	...	...	3

In the Maternity Ward 208 babies were born, including 4 sets of twins; 11 were still births.

There were also admitted to the Maternity Ward 28 patients for ante-natal and 2 for post-natal treatment.

There was one maternal death (from eclampsia).

All emergency and abnormal cases are admitted to the Maternity Ward; only normal straightforward cases are sent elsewhere.

### CHILD WELFARE.

Weekly clinics at Crescent House and Seamer Road continued throughout the year, with large attendances.

The Health Visitors (2 full time and 1 half time) did as much home visiting as they could, but work at the Centre takes more of their time than it used to. They paid 47 visits to expectant mothers and 3,543 to children under 5.

The weekly orthopædic clinic was held by the Sister from the Adela Shaw Orthopædic Hospital, Kirbymoorside. The Orthopædic Surgeon attends this once a month. Ten children were admitted to the Orthopædic Hospital during the year, 4 at the cost of the Maternity & Child Welfare Committee, 6 at the cost of the Education Committee, 2 tuberculosis cases at the cost of the North Riding County Council, and 2 evacuees paid for on the Evacuation Account.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There was no epidemic of infectious disease during the year. The numbers of notified cases (civilians only) were as follows :

Scarlet Fever	...	...	68
Whooping Cough	...	...	52
Diphtheria	...	...	12
Erysipelas	...	...	5
Measles	...	...	68
Pneumonia	...	...	9
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	18



Of the 12 cases of diphtheria, 9 were children under 15 and one of these died. Admissions to the Isolation Hospital (including both civilian and service cases) were :

Scarlet Fever	...	...	118
Whooping Cough	...	...	5
Diphtheria	...	...	23
Erysipelas	...	...	3
Measles	...	...	22
Pneumonia	...	...	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	5
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...	2
Typhoid	...	...	1
Acute polio-myelitis	...	...	1
Pelvic-cellutis	...	...	1
Vincent's Angina	...	...	1
Chicken Pox	...	...	6
Mumps	...	...	5
Tonsillitis	...	...	6
Shingles	...	...	1
Jaundice	...	...	1
German Measles	...	...	2
Scabies and Impetigo	...	...	15
Observation	...	...	3
			223

### IMMUNISATION.

The numbers of children who completed a course of immunisation against diphtheria during the year were as follows :

Under 5 years old	...	519
Aged 5 to 14 years	...	512

The immunising agent used is T.A.F. given in three fortnightly injections — every child is Schick tested for immunity after a 3 months interval. A very few (1 to 2 per cent.) are found to be still non-immune. These children are given two further injections, this time of A.P.T. with a month's interval between them, and after a further 3 months they are tested again.

It is estimated that by the end of 1943 50% of children under 5 and 62% of children 5 to 14 years' old, had received a course of immunisation, including of course, children treated in previous years, who were still under 15 at the end of 1943. These percentages continue to rise and are now approaching the 75% believed to be required for the stamping out of diphtheria, a preventable disease which killed more children during the war than the bombs of the enemy did.

### WATER SUPPLY.

Scarborough has an abundant supply of water lying underground close at hand in the rocks of the middle oolitic strata. There are three pumping Stations, Irton (the main one), Osgodby (maintained as a standby), and Cayton Bay. The capacity of the Irton Station is more than four million gallons a day. The water here is coagulated and filtered and then chlorinated so as to leave not more than 0.15 parts chlorine per million in the water as supplied. The water at Cayton Bay needs no treatment.

#### IRTON.

Monthly full bacteriological examinations are made of the unfiltered and of the filtered water — the results are summarised in the following table :

	No. of Examinations	No. of colonies on agar in 3 days at 22°c	No. of colonies on agar in 2 days at 37°c	No. of coliform organisms in 100 c.c.	Presence of Bacillus Welchii in 250 c.c.
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Unfiltered water	12	28-680	10-180	14-160	Present 8 times
Filtered water ...	12	1-28	1-8	0-13	Absent 12 times

The filtered (unchlorinated) water was also examined three times a week for the presence of the coliform bacillus only. During the greater part of the year this was found to be either absent, or present in only small numbers (i.e. 0-13 per 100 c.c.). During the five weeks 26th August to the end of September it was found in larger numbers (2-90 per 100 c.c. rising on one occasion to 180).

## CAYTON BAY.

Five full examinations during the year showed :

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
5	3 — 8	2 — 4	0	absent

Of three tests for *Bacillus coli* only two were negative and one positive (1 per 100 c.c.).

## OSGODBY.

One full examination gave :

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1	40	2 — 4	3	absent

One test for *Bacillus coli* only was negative.

The chlorinated water as supplied was examined regularly throughout the year for the presence of *Bacillus coli*, the samples being taken from premises in all parts of the town. On 87 occasions *Bacillus coli* was not found in 100 c.c. ; on 4 occasions it was present in small numbers (1 to 5 in 100 c.c.)

## SWIMMING POOLS.

Between June and September the North Bay Swimming Pool was kept under constant bacteriological observation. The water was tested 31 times for the presence of *Bacillus coli* ; on 13 occasions this was absent from 100 c.c., on 14 occasions it was present in very small numbers (from 1 to 10 in 100 c.c.), and on 4 occasions it was present in higher numbers (viz: 25, 25, 50 and 35 in 100 c.c.) The total numbers of organisms growing on agar at 22°C in 3 days and at 37°C in 2 days rose on one occasion to 3,720 and 480 respectively. These results are regarded as very satisfactory in a pool so crowded with bathers.

## HOUSING

No new houses were built during the year.

Eight houses were recommended for demolition — of these two were demolished, two were made fit, and in respect of the other four undertakings were given by the owners that they would no longer be used as dwellinghouses.

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

to the

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Sir,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report detailing the work of the Sanitary Inspectors during the year, 1943.

### SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

Inspections of houses and premises (general)	...	...	...	7,419
„ made under the Housing Act, 1936	...	...	...	10
Re-inspections and re-visits	...	...	...	1,271
Complaints investigated	...	...	...	1,118
Inspections made under Factory and Workshops Act	...	...	...	64
„ „ of bakehouses	...	...	...	139
„ „ of offensive trade premises	...	...	...	33
„ „ under Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919	...	...	...	2,262
„ „ of Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	581
„ „ under Food and Drugs Act, 1936	...	...	...	412
„ „ of dairies, cowsheds and milkshops	...	...	...	305
„ „ of common lodging houses	...	...	...	52
„ „ of public lavatories	...	...	...	169
„ „ of restaurant kitchens	...	...	...	65
Drains tested	...	...	...	88
Inspections of market and fish piers	...	...	...	40
Visits re enquiries into infectious cases	...	...	...	85
Premises disinfected and disinfested	...	...	...	344



## NOTICES SERVED.

Informal Notices	(Public Health Acts)	...	...	...	270
"	" Housing Acts	...	...	...	—
Statutory Notices	(Public Health Acts)	...	...	...	43
"	" Housing Act, 1936 (Sec. 9)	...	...	...	—
"	" Milk and Dairies Order	...	...	...	7
					<hr/> 320 <hr/>

## COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There was one registered Common Lodging House during the year.

The number of beds occupied was as under :

Men	...	...	...	...	4,053
Women	...	...	...	...	41
Children	...	...	...	...	—

The general Conditions of cleanliness and management have been good.

## OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are three offensive trade businesses established within the Borough, enumerated as follows :

Tripe boilers	...	...	...	...	2
Gut scrapers	...	...	...	...	1

All were conducted satisfactorily.

## DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

Cowkeepers and purveyors of milk on the register at the end of the year were as follows :

Cowkeepers	...	...	...	...	10
Wholesale dealers	...	...	...	...	21
Retail purveyors	...	...	...	...	37
Number of registered dairies	...	...	...	...	34
Purveyors of bottled milk only	...	...	...	...	38

## SAMPLES PROCURED FOR BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION, Etc.

No. OF SAMPLES TAKEN	ARTICLE	RESULT OF EXAMINATION			
122	Ungraded milk	B. Coli absent from 100 c.c.	...	...	69
		B. Coli present from 100 c.c.	...	...	53
		Low bacteria count	...	...	121
		High bacteria count	...	...	1
73	T.T. milk	Satisfied M.Blue test	...	...	61
		Failed to satisfy M.Blue test	...	...	12
		Satisfied Coliform test	...	...	61
		Failed to satisfy Coliform test	...	...	12
12	Accredited milk	Satisfied M.Blue test	...	...	8
		Failed to satisfy M.Blue test	...	...	4
		Satisfied Coliform test	...	...	12
		Failed to satisfy Coliform test	...	...	—
44	Pasteurised milk	Satisfied prescribed test	...	...	38
		Failed to satisfy prescribed test	...	...	6
		Satisfied phosphatase test	...	...	34
		Failed to satisfy phosphatase test	...	...	10
1	Sterilised milk	Satisfied Methylene Blue and Coliform tests			1
69	Graded and ungraded milks	Biological — negative for tuberculosis	...	...	68
		" — positive for tuberculosis	...	...	1

## MILK AND DAIRIES AMENDMENT ACT, 1922.

## MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1936.

The number of licenses issued during the year to use the Special Designations was as follows :

Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	...	10
Accredited	...	...	...	...	1
Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	8

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

During the year 47 samples were procured and submitted to the Analyst for analysis, as under :

ARTICLES					SATISFACTORY	UNSATIS- FACTORY	TOTAL
Milk	...	...	...	...	22	3	25
Butter	...	...	...	...	3	-	3
Sugar	...	...	...	...	1	-	1
Dried milk	...	...	...	...	3	-	3
Sausages	...	...	...	...	8	-	8
Ices	...	...	...	...	3	-	3
Tinned milk	...	...	...	...	1	-	1
Vinegar	...	...	...	...	1	-	1
Coffee	...	...	...	...	1	-	1
Gelatine	...	...	...	...	-	1	1
TOTALS					43	4	47

A fine of two pounds was made regarding two samples of milk.

The consignment of gelatine was returned to the manufacturers.

FOOD INSPECTION.

The following articles, being unfit for human food, have been surrendered by the owners for the purpose of destruction :

Weight —					Tons	cwts.	sts.	lbs.
Beast carcasses	...	...	...	...	4	4	3	6
Sheep and lamb carcasses	...	...	...	...		4	7	6
Pig carcasses	...	...	...	...		7	3	-
Beef (parts of carcasses)	...	...	...	...		14	3	10
Mutton (parts of carcasses)	...	...	...	...		1	1	7
Pork (parts of carcasses)	...	...	...	...			4	7
Beast offal	...	...	...	...	3	17	6	7
Sheep offal	...	...	...	...		7	3	7
Pig offal	...	...	...	...		14	5	11
Other foods	...	...	...	...	9	12	1	5
TOTAL					20	5	-	10

During the year the following animals were slaughtered :

Beasts	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
1,859	1,158	12,339	304

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919.

Sustained efforts were continued during the year for the destruction of rats and mice. There were 639 complaints received and 2,262 inspections made during the year ; advice and assistance were given in each instance.

A rat catcher is occupied in making a thorough investigation of all premises known to be, or suspected of, harbouring rats. His services have proved to be of great value in finding the points of entrance and thus making it possible for the premises to be made rat proof. Allotments, piggeries, tips and other suspected premises which rats usually infest are inspected frequently, and the necessary measures taken to eliminate the rodents found.

A total number of 625 bodies of rats were received at the Corporation Depot, Dean Road. In addition to this number, the Borough Rat Catcher caught a further 1,588 rats.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

R. H. STEPHENSON,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.





